

Bangladesh Coalition Moves Toward Clean Cities International Designation

Bangladesh wants to increase its energy security and improve air quality. With the help of Clean Cities International (CCI), it is pursuing these goals by implementing alternative fuel vehicles.

The U.S. Agency for International Development in 2002 arranged the first contact between Bangladesh and CCI. Marcy Rood, CCI director and Clean Cities deputy director, subsequently traveled to Bangladesh to initiate a productive collaboration. Meetings in 2003 and 2004 focused on compressed natural gas (CNG) station design and operation, codes and standards, and the Bangladesh coalition's organization and plans.

Ministry of Communications Leads Coalition

Bangladesh's Ministry of Communications is leading the coalition. The Bangladesh Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources worked with CCI to start the coalition and served as interim coordinator. Once



Natural gas autorickshaws—also called “CNGs”—in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

the coalition was established, coalition stakeholders chose the Ministry of Communications' Dhaka Transport Coordination Board to serve as the new coordinating agency. Quamrul Siddique, executive director of that board, is the coalition's new coordinator. Other members represent fueling stations, conversion companies, trade associations, vehicle fleets, nongovernmental organizations, and funding partners. The coalition established four committees: technical, infrastructure, market development, and training. Official designation as a CCI coalition is anticipated in late 2004.

“Clean Cities International provides a forum for the CNG industry in Bangladesh to access information, exchange ideas, and interact with CNG programs in the United States and other countries,” says Ziaur Rahman, coalition member and vice president of Bangladesh-based CNG Distribution Co., Ltd. “It can also organize activities, provide support, and arrange consultation with experts to develop the CNG industry in Bangladesh.”

Bangladesh Facts	
Area*	55,600 square miles (slightly smaller than Iowa)
Capital*	Dhaka
Population*	141 million
Number of vehicles**	740,000
Types of vehicles (proportion of total vehicles)**	Light-duty cars (30%), motorcycles (38%), autorickshaws (11%), diesel trucks (4%), diesel buses (6%), heavy-duty diesel vehicles (10%)
Rate of vehicle increase**	6% annually
Number of CNG vehicles**	25,000

*Source: Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook

**Source: Ziaur Rahman, CNG Distribution Co., Ltd.



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One mutually beneficial exchange arranged by CCI was a CNG trade show that took place in Bangladesh in November 2003. The show featured more than 15 U.S. companies that exhibited CNG technologies and services to more than 75 interested buyers. One of the exhibitors, Wisconsin-based ANGI International, subsequently received orders for fueling station equipment from three Bangladeshi businesses. The equipment will serve a total of four publicly accessible CNG stations.

CNG is Bangladesh Coalition Focus

According to Rahman, Bangladesh is focusing on CNG for two reasons: One, natural gas is a locally available resource, so using it reduces the country's petroleum imports and increases energy security. And two, the clean burning characteristics of natural gas will help mitigate air pollution in Bangladesh's cities, starting with the capital, Dhaka. By mid 2005, the coalition aims to:

- Convert 10,000 additional vehicles to CNG (for a total of 35,000)
- Introduce 500 CNG buses
- Add 25 CNG stations (for a total of 75)
- Establish CNG codes and standards
- Train 200 mechanics in CNG technologies.



Greg Zilberfarb

Lizabeth Ardisana (standing) and Greg Zilberfarb (far left) of ASG Renaissance work with Dhaka Clean Cities stakeholders to develop their coalition plan.

Clean Cities International staff members who have worked with the Bangladesh coalition are confident it will succeed. "They have bright and energetic public and private sectors," says Lizabeth Ardisana of ASG Renaissance, who facilitated several of the Bangladesh coalition's meetings for CCI. "They are excited and motivated, and that makes a big difference."

For more information on CCI, please visit our Web site www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/international.

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